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Chairperson: Ms. Lintonen ..... (Finland)

Contents

General debate (*continued*)

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The meeting was called to order at 3 p.m.

General debate (*continued*)

1. **Ms. Rodríguez** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) noted that in the recently concluded general debate of the plenary Assembly, the leaders of the developing countries had been almost unanimous in their urgent call for open, fair and non-discriminatory financial and commercial systems. The economic and financial policy programmes imposed on them in the past two decades had not led to social and macroeconomic stability, still less the growth that would allow them to break through the barriers, primarily non-tariff, impeding their access to markets.

2. In its foreign policy, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela aligned itself with the voices that denounced initiatives designed to favour the industrialized countries, which had made it possible for them to escape from the commitments they had undertaken at the various international summits and conferences while increasing protectionist measures for their industries to the detriment of poorer countries. It was also widely recognized that the persistence of external debt was harming the economies and finances of the countries of the South, deepening the inequalities in the distribution of assets. That grave and unsustainable obstacle to the human development of the poorest countries would lead to a global humanitarian catastrophe. At the same time, the consumerism, social security and prosperity of creditor countries had been financed by the exponentially increasing net influx of capital from the debtor countries.

3. Against that backdrop, the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela had repeatedly called for a more humane economic model, one that respected national realities, and enabled the global production of wealth and fairness in the enjoyment of it. It had also stressed the need to change unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, promote appropriate demographic policies and accord priority to the special needs of the developing countries.

4. Over the past nine years, Venezuela had been pursuing a policy with a central objective of democratization and the transfer of economic, political and social power to the impoverished and excluded sectors, in order to overcome inequalities in the distribution of wealth. Recent years had seen a period of sharp economic recovery for the country, making it possible not only to tackle the problems of its own development but also to contribute to that of other fraternal countries, particularly in the energy sector. The Venezuelan Government had promoted the development of regional financial integration mechanisms, which, with innovative tools and the use of national currency, both allowed the creation of synergies, and thus a saving of resources, and helped to establish means to channel resources into the development of the regions in which those resources had been generated.

5. The people of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela were proud of the way in which its resources had helped the countries of Latin America to emerge from their grave financial crisis. On the basis of that experience, Venezuela had proposed the creation of the Banco del Sur, the details of which were currently under discussion. Her Government's position was that the use of low-cost energy could drive the comprehensive development of society with the larger aim of eradicating poverty. In that context, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, together with Bolivia, Cuba and Nicaragua, had set up the Bolivarian Alternative for the Americas (ALBA) — a regional integration initiative that sought to correct the asymmetries existing among the countries of the region by fostering cooperative advantages and tackling the obstacles to genuine integration, such as poverty and social exclusion or unequal access to information, technology and knowledge.

6. ALBA also believed that it was vital to rethink integration agreements in order to achieve endogenous national and regional development. One of the most important agreements to be signed within the framework of the Alternative was the Petroamerica initiative, designed to facilitate the establishment of cooperation and integration mechanisms to promote the use of local energy resources as a basis for improving the socio-economic conditions of the peoples of the continent through reinforcement of the three pillars of sustainable development: economic growth, social development and environmental protection.

7. **Mr. Yousfi** (Algeria) said that, paradoxically, globalization played a role in both the successes of some developing countries and the marginalization of many others, preventing them from achieving sustainable growth and development. In their efforts to join the world economy, the developing countries continued to face major structural obstacles, which

meant that mechanisms were needed to facilitate their integration. Implementation of the development agenda was thus dependent upon the establishment of a global development partnership that could rectify the very unequally distributed costs of globalization.

8. The International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank and the World Trade Organization (WTO) all had a role to play in development. Consequently, the ongoing reform of those institutions should take into account the concerns of all developing countries in order to ensure their equitable participation in decision-making. Coordination between those institutions and the United Nations should be strengthened in order to find a better way of funding development. Laudable efforts to create an international consensus on the international development objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals, should be backed by proper fulfilment of the commitments undertaken.

9. The Follow-Up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Monterrey Consensus, which would take place in Doha in the second half of 2008, would provide the right opportunity to assess the progress made relative to the commitments undertaken and to look at ways to deal with the emerging challenges in the domain of development funding.

10. Mechanisms to increase the reliability, effectiveness and consistency of the activities of the United Nations system needed to be adopted within the framework of the guiding principles which should govern the operational activities: their neutrality on the one hand and their multilateral, universal and voluntary character on the other. Reform of the operational activities should assist in making the United Nations more effective and more efficient in its role of strengthening the capacities of the developing countries, and the activities should be monitored to ensure observance of the respective mandates of the main United Nations bodies.

11. Sustainable development had to be seen in terms of an integrated approach to the three pillars of economic growth, social development and environmental protection. Thus, the challenge of climate change which entailed real threats to the international community was intimately linked with the question of development. The current climate crisis constituted a real threat to present and future generations, notably in Africa, the continent that was at once most threatened by and most vulnerable to climate change. Scientific and technological support and the transfer of technology and knowledge from the developed countries, in line with the commitments undertaken, would help to mitigate the effects of climate change in Africa.

12. The efforts of the international community to combat climate change should be channelled into establishing a worldwide regime based on an emissions reduction strategy that was both effective and equitable. Resolution of environmental issues called for a global approach in which poverty reduction, promotion of economic growth, combating pandemics and conflict resolution were intertwined. Synergies were necessary in order to rise to the dual challenges of climate change and desertification.

13. The performance of South-South cooperation and its expansion to several development sectors demonstrated the importance of that form of cooperation. South-South cooperation was not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South cooperation, its current dynamic should be underpinned by long-lasting arrangements for triangular cooperation and properly integrated into operational activities.

14. Regional cooperation between developing countries could assist national development strategies. The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) remained the most appropriate instrument for the implementation of political and economic governance in Africa.

15. **Mr. Akec Khoc** (Sudan) expressed concern that, despite the growth of the global economy, and efforts at economic and political reform, developing countries, especially the least developed countries, continued to be subject to systemic external pressures beyond their control which hindered their efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger and achieve sustainable development. Globalization had yet to become a fair, equitable and inclusive force. It had caused disparities between and within countries, with the least developed countries being the worst affected.

16. It was also of concern that the African continent continued to lag behind the rest of the developing world in its progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. Special attention must be focused on that long-suffering continent. In that connection,

Sudan welcomed the Secretary-General's pledge to make Africa a priority and looked forward to seeing the results of his recent initiative to establish the Millennium Development Goals Africa Steering Group and to assessing the effectiveness of that initiative to deliver on the unfulfilled promises made to Africa.

17. The prolonged suspension of the Doha Round gave greater urgency to the need to guarantee an equitable international trading system, one that would provide the developing countries, and in particular the least developed countries, with duty- and quota-free market access and eliminate agricultural subsidies.

18. In the current year, the United Nations had taken a pioneering role in addressing the global challenge posed by climate change. Political will would be needed to push for a new agreement at the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in Bali in December, one that would contain firm and strict emission reduction targets. The poorest countries, which had the lowest levels of emission and were the least prepared, but the hardest hit by the adverse impact of climate change, must be assisted by the international community.

19. South-South cooperation remained crucial as it could assist developing countries in harnessing their collective strength and complementarity at a time of economic globalization. A landmark event had been the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council in Geneva the previous July. He welcomed the introduction of the Council's new functions — namely, the Annual Ministerial Reviews, and the Development Cooperation Forum — which could be expected to contribute to strengthening the Council, the implementation of the global partnership for development and the monitoring of development commitments. The Committee should seek to make those functions more results-oriented and a platform for the exchange of experiences.

20. In the area of the ongoing reform of United Nations operational activities for development, Sudan supported a process that was transparent and inclusive, that was based on the principle of national ownership and sovereignty, and that took countries' unique situations and special needs fully into account.

21. Sudan looked forward to the High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development, to be held later in the month, and hoped that it would be an opportunity to explore ways to strengthen the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus. It was of particular importance that the developing countries should continue to demand a voice and participation in the international decision-making process, in order to guarantee not only their integration into the global economic system, but most importantly their participation in setting parameters for it.

22. Sudan hoped that the Committee would continue to pay attention to countries' diversity and special situations, particularly in the case of countries emerging from conflict, and stressed the importance of official development assistance and cancellation of the debt that was obstructing reconstruction and development efforts.

23. **Mr. Kim** Hyun-Chong (Republic of Korea) said that as the world passed the halfway mark towards 2015, it was essential to assess the progress made in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and to renew the commitment to achieving them by the target date. The report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization (document A/62/1) showed that, while there had been some progress, it had been uneven and many countries were still not on track to achieve the Goals by 2015. While global partnership was undoubtedly necessary to that end, it was also important to recognize that the primary responsibility lay with the developing countries. Numerous international forums had stressed that a national development strategy, good governance, and national ownership and leadership were key elements in nurturing sustainable development. While different approaches might be taken, inclusive growth strategies should be vital elements in development plans.

24. Africa required special attention, and the Secretary-General's initiative to assist development on the African continent by launching the Millennium Development Goals Africa Steering Group was therefore welcome. Likewise, the initiative taken by the President of the General Assembly to hold a Millennium Development Goals Leaders Meeting during the current session would also be helpful in reinvigorating those efforts. For its part, the Republic of Korea was making a strenuous effort to increase development assistance to Africa substantially, under the Korea Initiative for Africa's Development which had been launched in March 2006, and was also participating in the Millennium Village initiative,

which, if successful, would have significant implications for development.

25. It was regrettable that the slow rate of increase in official development assistance was hindering the full implementation of national development strategies. Indeed, the projected level of assistance still fell short of what was needed to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. The Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development, to be held in Doha at the end of 2008, would provide a good opportunity to reassess financial needs and revitalize the political commitment to achieve them, while the High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development, to be held on 23 and 24 October, would provide valuable input to the Doha Conference. The Government of the Republic of Korea had been making every effort to fulfil the pledges it had made at the 2005 World Summit, by substantially increasing its official development assistance.

26. Among the various sources of financing for development identified by the Monterrey Consensus, aid, debt relief, and trade were widely regarded as vital to development. The history of development in many countries, including that of the Republic of Korea, had shown that development aid alone did not bring sustainable development in the long run. Rather, development should spring from its own engine, which in the case of the Republic of Korea had been based on international trade. As trade fostered the dynamism of development by generating self-reliance in developing countries, the Republic of Korea strongly supported free trade and open markets. It called for the early resumption and completion of the Doha Development Round of negotiations with the aim of creating a freer multilateral trading system, paying special attention to the needs of developing countries. In the meantime, that could be achieved, to some extent, through free trade agreements.

27. The Republic of Korea remained firmly committed to the process of United Nations reform. It believed that the role of the Economic and Social Council should be strengthened in economic and social issues, including those of development cooperation. Maximizing the potential of the United Nations system, which had often been criticized for fragmentation and lack of operational synergy, would be another vital step. Enhancing coherence across the United Nations system, particularly in the fields of development, humanitarian assistance and the environment, would enable the system as a whole to deliver better results. The Republic of Korea took the view that "delivering as one" was the correct approach to reforming development support. Thus, it believed that discussion of system-wide coherence issues could be incorporated into the triennial comprehensive policy review process scheduled for the current session of the General Assembly to enhance the overall effectiveness of development cooperation.

28. Effective implementation of the development agenda would not be possible without full participation of women in all aspects. Education and equal opportunity for women were therefore not just human rights issues, but formed a vital condition for economic development. The empowerment of women and the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into policymaking should therefore be central to efforts to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

29. It was now more evident than ever that global warming was impeding efforts to attain economic and social development. Climate change was indeed a global issue that needed to be urgently addressed through concerted international action. It was to be hoped that the United Nations Climate Change Conference to be held in Bali in December would establish a road map for a post-2012 framework to advance efforts towards a low-carbon economy. Such a framework should be comprehensive and flexible enough to allow all nations to join the global efforts, and should include measures to address mitigation, adaptation, financing and technology.

30. **Mr. Romero-Martinez** (Honduras) said that it was difficult for his country to assign priorities for the discussion, as international trade and development were as important as external debt and development. Needs were as varied as the search for solutions.

31. Poverty eradication was a collective responsibility, as there could be no social progress while millions of beings lived in conditions of inequity, inequality, discrimination and extreme poverty. Any measures taken had to be sensitive to the reality of current circumstances.

32. His region had suffered many natural disasters that had caused loss of life and the destruction of production capacity and infrastructure. A global strategy was needed to reduce the number of disasters and devise a policy for prevention.

33. In view of high oil prices, his country was interested in promoting new and renewable energy sources and welcomed the initiative for a sustainable development strategy. Honduras supported all urgent and practical initiatives that focused on climate change. At the first thematic plenary meeting of the High-level Event on Climate Change, the Honduran President had contributed ideas and described how his country was working on environmental conservation.

34. Although South-South cooperation was crucial and produced excellent results, it was not a substitute for North-South cooperation. His country wished to see an opening of markets for its products at a fair and reasonable price. When such opportunities were available, developing countries could close the gaps and develop their economies. The challenge was to move forward, improving social conditions and creating favourable conditions for economic and social development.

35. **Mr. Al-Najem** (Kuwait) said that the time had come to change the way of dealing with the many challenges still existing seven years after the Millennium Summit so as to fulfil the commitments made. Achieving the Millennium Development Goals required global partnership to save the lives of millions of human beings and improve their living standard within the next few years.

36. His delegation attached great importance to the High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development, to be held shortly, in which his country, convinced that the chief objective of the meeting was to assess the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, would participate at a high level. Kuwait had made great strides in realizing the commitments and decisions of the 2005 World Summit and achieving the Goals, especially in the fields of education, health and the strengthening of the role of women, and had drafted policies to promote greater economic and social development and raise the standard of living.

37. From the time of its independence, Kuwait had adopted a generous policy of assistance to developing countries, including the establishment, in 1961, of the Kuwaiti Fund for Arab Economic Development, which had contributed more than $12 billion to fund infrastructure projects in over 100 countries. It made yearly voluntary contributions to international specialized agencies and regional funds and had recently contributed $300 million to the Islamic Development Bank for poverty eradication in Africa and humanitarian supplies and relief to countries stricken by natural disasters. It supported the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development, to which it called on all Member States to contribute.

38. Coordination of national, regional and international efforts was needed to overcome the difficulties hampering the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, difficulties that included weak national infrastructures, inadequate funding, a lack of technology and the inability to reap the benefits of globalization. Developed countries must live up to their undertaking to support the economic structures of developing countries and provide financial, pharmaceutical and technological assistance amounting to 0.7 per cent of their gross national product to support the national strategies adopted by the countries themselves.

39. His delegation commended the efforts of some developed countries to achieve that level of development assistance and those of numerous developing countries to achieve good governance, the rule of law and transparency and to fight corruption. It also appreciated the debt forgiveness granted by the Group of Eight industrialized countries and the European Union to a number of least developed countries and looked forward to continued efforts in that direction as well as debt rescheduling.

40. In recent years, Kuwait had improved and liberalized trade, strengthened foreign investment and accorded the private sector a pioneering role based on free competition, all of which had required constant amendment of legislation. His delegation hoped that developing and least developed countries would be given a greater role in determining WTO policy, and that an international trading system fairer to those countries would emerge.

41. With regard to climate change, the primary emphasis was still on reducing the use of fossil fuels, while factors such as deforestation, urbanization of agricultural land and nuclear energy were virtually ignored. Kuwait objected to the imposing of any obligations on developing countries, especially those that depended on fossil fuels, before the industrialized countries fulfilled their commitments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the related Kyoto Protocol.

42. More financial resources must be mobilized internationally for discovering and transferring environmentally sound technologies aimed at according a greater share to fossil fuels among energy sources and for increasing international cooperation and investment to provide an uninterrupted supply of energy to countries that needed it, so as to avoid the effects of energy-source price fluctuations on economic development in some countries. Education and awareness-raising regarding renewable energy and its advantages were also required.

43. **Mr. Chidumo** (Mozambique) said that, although some developing countries were now closer to reaching the Millennium Development Goals in several areas, most of them, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, were still far away and some countries were not on track to reach a single Goal. Those imbalances, together with the volatility of the international commodity and financial markets, were further weakening the participation of developing countries in what was now a robust world economy.

44. Africa's share in the international trading system remained insignificant and 31 per cent of the population lived below the minimum level of dietary energy consumption, while deadly diseases continued to cause almost 4 million deaths per year. Poverty remained the greatest challenge and the main obstacle to development efforts. Concrete and immediate measures were needed for the full implementation of all commitments made at the major United Nations summits and conferences, including those made within the G-8 framework.

45. ODA levels had declined in 2006 and were likely to decline further in 2007. The long-standing target of 0.7 per cent of GNP had not been met, nor had the additional $50 billion of assistance for developing countries pledged at the 2005 World Summit materialized. He hoped that the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development would succeed in taking action to ensure full implementation of the commitments embodied in the Monterrey Consensus.

46. The deadlock in the multilateral trade negotiations in the Doha Round was a matter of great concern for developing countries. His delegation called on developed countries to show the political will needed to break through the current impasse and ensure timely and successful completion of the current trade talks.

47. Trade-related problems, including structural constraints, were of concern to the least developed countries and should be addressed in a holistic and integrated manner. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) should play a catalytic role in capacity-building for developing countries to ensure that the trade negotiations were an inclusive process. The outcomes should take account of the concerns of all developing countries.

48. While low tariffs and market access constituted the main challenge, most developing countries needed additional financial resources to improve their productivity and competitive capacities. In September 2005, world leaders had pledged support and increased aid for capacity-building to enable developing countries to benefit from increased trade opportunities. He welcomed the recent enhancement of the Integrated Framework for Trade-related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries and called for speedier implementation of the Aid for Trade initiative of the World Trade Organization.

49. The effects of climate change were felt in all countries, yet the developing countries, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, suffered the most. As a country prone to various types of natural disasters, Mozambique focused particular attention on reducing vulnerability and mitigating the suffering of populations, as well as ensuring a rapid and harmonious reconstruction and recovery process.

50. While each country was primarily responsible for its own economic and social development, mitigation and adaptation efforts in relation to climate change and the prevention and reduction of the negative impacts of natural disasters required the involvement of the entire international community. The recent High-level Event on Climate Change had brought new prospects and hope for substantial progress at the forthcoming Bali Climate Change Conference.

51. In relation to United Nations operational activities for development, the current process of improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the United Nations system should bring significant progress towards attaining the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed goals.

52. Mozambique welcomed the report of the High-level Panel on System-wide Coherence in the areas of development, humanitarian assistance and the environment and the recommendations it contained. His delegation looked forward to studying the recently published report of the co-Chairs to the President of the General Assembly on the consultations carried out thus far. The Panel's recommendations were an invaluable contribution towards establishing a stronger and more coherent United Nations system at the country level and the realization of its full potential as an effective development partner. His country had volunteered to be one of eight to test the One United Nations programme at country level in order to provide inputs to the intergovernmental process and decisions on the Panel's recommendations.

53. States had a collective obligation and responsibility to seize the opportunity given by the current session of the General Assembly to move forward with the United Nations development agenda. Some of the main issues of the current session were relevant to the work of the Committee, including financing for development, climate change and operational activities for development.

54. **Ms. Aitimova** (Kazakhstan) noted that despite some successes in terms of eliminating poverty and hunger, there was still much work to be done. Priority issues included primary health care, measures to deal with epidemics, maternal and child mortality, tuberculosis and malaria and HIV/AIDS, which was currently one of the main causes of death among the working-age population.

55. The developed world could help developing countries to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by complying with their international obligations in the area of development and ensuring the success of the Doha Development Round. The developing countries should prudently manage their natural and human resources, practice good governance and fight corruption at all levels so that their resources would not be wasted.

56. Kazakhstan was committed to achieving the Millennium Development Goals and was implementing its long-term development strategy "Kazakhstan 2030". The main economic objective was to ensure that Kazakhstan became one of the most competitive countries by diversifying the economy, increasing the production of value-added goods and services and laying the foundation for a high-technology service economy. Kazakhstan was also increasing its gas production, and its large uranium deposits would give it an important role in the development of nuclear energy. By 2017, her country would be one of the world's 10 largest oil producers.

57. Her country was fully aware of its share of responsibility for ensuring a global energy balance and security. Kazakhstan had proposed a Eurasian pact on stability of energy delivery to promote further diversification of energy delivery to consumers and to provide assurances to energy producers. Joining WTO on equitable and non-discriminatory terms would help Kazakhstan in that endeavour.

58. It was important to take into account the interests of landlocked developing countries in the development of transit transport capabilities, trade promotion and access to world markets. It had been a significant year for the Almaty Programme of Action and it was time to review the progress achieved in its implementation. Decisions on the development of regional cooperation and transport and transit infrastructure taken at the recent session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in Kazakhstan in May had been a significant and logical step in that direction.

59. She drew attention to Kazakhstan's proposal to establish a United Nations register of global environmental problems in order to help develop mechanisms for addressing environmental disasters.

60. The global energy crisis and the threat of negative climate change presented acute problems for the world community. A global energy and environmental strategy should be developed in the context of the United Nations for discussion at the 2012 follow-up review of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

61. Millions of people had been affected by the dire situation of the Aral Sea: three quarters of its water had been lost and salt from the exposed seabed was causing environmental damage to the entire Eurasian continent. The countries of the Central Asian region had done a lot to rehabilitate the sea, but the efforts of the world community were needed. At the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development, Kazakhstan had proposed giving the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea the status of a United Nations institution.

62. Regional integration was needed to meet the challenges of the modern world. Kazakhstan had repeatedly declared its firm commitment to regional cooperation as a means of achieving economic prosperity for the Central Asian countries.

63. **Mr. Christian** (Ghana) said that much attention had been focused on poverty reduction in recent years, as the continuous existence of extreme poverty in a world of plenty was an affront to the international community. All States should persist in their efforts until palpable progress was achieved.

64. The international community had long been a faithful partner in development efforts. It had provided support for countries in sub-Saharan Africa, including his own, and the least developed countries in its commitment to helping developing countries achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

65. The number of people living in extreme poverty worldwide had declined since 1990 and significant progress had been made in increasing access to education and reducing child mortality. Yet progress was slow and uneven and many countries, especially African countries, were lagging behind. It was important to strengthen international cooperation to ensure the implementation of commitments made at various international conferences and summits. The critical needs of poor countries could not be solved by national or regional investments alone but required an effective global partnership if they were to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed goals. Issues such as the debt crisis, climate change, global trade policy, technology and financing for development could only be addressed at the global level.

66. Progress had been slow in reducing Africa's external debt under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative. Although the debt stock had declined in relation to GDP, total debt service obligations remained almost unchanged due to higher interest rates. Additionality of aid was supposed to be a key component of the HIPC Initiative. Even if full debt relief was granted, ODA would still have to provide the additional resources needed for development. Yet ODA stood at only half the promised level of 0.7 per cent of GNP, despite the G-8 pledge made in 2005 to double aid to Africa by 2010.

67. The poor countries needed to increase their exports to the rich countries, yet trade barriers still hampered export growth. The Doha Round was supposed to improve market access for poor countries, yet the negotiations had stalled, which called into question the commitment of States to an open and rule-based trading system and poverty reduction. The Doha Round negotiations had to be consistent with poverty reduction objectives and should not conflict with the development assistance priorities pledged by Governments around the world in the 2002 Monterrey Consensus. The twelfth session of UNCTAD, to be held in Accra, Ghana, should provide the international community with an additional opportunity to focus on some of the issues facing Africa and other developing regions such as acquiring the trade and production capacities needed to compete on the world stage.

68. There was a growing global consensus on the threat posed by climate change and the urgent need to address it. Ghana hoped that the Bali Climate Change Conference in December would provide an appropriate platform for constructive negotiations with a view to adopting a comprehensive post-2012 multilateral regime.

69. **Mr. Godo** (Kenya) said that the Committee should provide suitable forums for deliberations and action-oriented decisions on major development issues. His delegation welcomed the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council, the holding of its first Annual Ministerial Review and the launch of its Development Cooperation Forum in 2007, mandates that should enhance the work of the Council and the Committee. The international community's concerted efforts notwithstanding, disparities among countries continued to grow, fuelled by unfair global financial and trading regimes.

70. Sustainable development in almost all developing countries over the previous decade had faced serious challenges posed by rising levels of external debt and deteriorating terms of trade, a situation exacerbated by the stalled Doha Round and the continuing reduction of ODA and foreign direct investment (FDI) flows to developing countries, especially in Africa. Since five years after the historic Monterrey Conference, many of its commitments had still not been honoured, his delegation looked forward to the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development, to be held in Doha in 2008.

71. Kenya supported ongoing initiatives for improving the operational efficiency of the United Nations system, which continued to draw useful lessons for institutional reform in many countries. Environment, development and gender now occupied centre stage and required a proper understanding of their implications for the work of the United Nations and for the global development agenda. As host to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), Kenya called for a strengthened UNEP endowed with adequate resources. His country would continue to support the Organization's efforts by ensuring a favourable environment and providing counterpart support for the efficiency of the United Nations Office in Nairobi.

72. The projected impact of unmitigated climate change on Africa as a whole would affect livelihoods, health, water resources, agriculture and food security, and thus undermine economic prospects across the continent; while developing countries, especially in Africa, had contributed least to global warming, they were, ironically, the most vulnerable. The international community must assign priority to the negative effects of climate change, on the basis of common but differentiated responsibilities. Particular attention must be paid to the developing countries, whose adaptation efforts called for adequate resources, technology, and capacity-building. Kenya, as the current President of the United Nations Climate Change Conference, looked forward to a fruitful outcome of the Bali Climate Change Conference and advocated a long-term mechanism for addressing climate change.

73. While the triennial comprehensive policy review would be addressing operational activities with a view to ensuring that programmes, funds and specialized agencies effectively contributed to poverty eradication and the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, he exhorted the Committee to address the special needs of Africa — the sole continent identified as unlikely to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 — and urged the international community to support Africa's development endeavours through NEPAD. In that connection, he applauded the Secretary-General's decision to establish a Millennium Development Goals Africa Steering Group, and looked forward to further high-level dialogue on Africa in 2008.

74. **Ms. Silveira** (Uruguay), highlighting some of the steps her country had taken to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, said, with reference to poverty reduction, that an emergency plan adopted in 2005 had significantly reduced the number of poor people, eradicated extreme poverty and helped to integrate many of the poor into society. With regard to health, the recently established national health fund accorded priority to primary health care and prevention. The fund also provided financing enabling all citizens to enjoy their right to health. In the area of education, schooling in Uruguay was now compulsory from the age of four years and programmes were being developed to prevent students from dropping out of elementary and high school.

75. Her country was also working to expand, modernize and diversify its external sector in order to increase its role in international trade. Further trade liberalization was essential and should be based on an open, rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory international trading and financial system devoid of all protectionist measures including restrictions on agricultural products and export subsidies. Domestic support measures should be reduced significantly and markets, particularly those of the developed countries, should be opened up more, including to less expensive goods from developing countries.

76. On the subject of financing for development, her delegation attached considerable importance to the High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development to be held later in the month and the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to take place in Doha in 2008. Her Government was interested in proposals put forward for innovative and additional forms of development financing, as well as new initiatives concerning the international financing machinery.

77. Collaboration between the United Nations and international financial institutions should be strengthened in order to mobilize resources for development. In that connection, the term "middle-income country" should be revised because it reflected neither internal inequalities often obscured by national averages nor efforts to overcome the vulnerability of national economies and particularly of large segments of the population. Although Uruguay was classified as a middle-income country, it faced structural obstacles that impeded sustainable development, and it required technical and financial assistance. According to the

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, 90 per cent of Latin Americans living in extreme poverty lived in middle-income countries.

78. The institutional capacity of the United Nations to combat environmental degradation should continue to be strengthened given the grave global threat the phenomenon posed to current and future generations. Further progress was therefore needed in implementing the agreements reached at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development. International cooperation on the environment through compliance with existing commitments, on the basis of common but differentiated responsibilities, was therefore essential. Donor countries in particular should increase their assistance to the developing countries in that regard.

79. Every State must exercise its responsibility to actively protect the environment of its territory and waters, with the vigilant participation of civil society. In so doing, States should ensure that foreign and domestic enterprises operating in their territory complied with strict environmental quality standards. Uruguay had adopted internationally accepted standards for that purpose and rigorously enforced them.

80. Although her country was not a major contributor to global warming, it fully recognized the dangers the phenomenon posed and the difficulty involved in achieving sustainable social and economic development, given the close relationship between its natural resources and economic performance.

81. Lastly, she said that her country shared the concern of the Security Council regarding the link between armed conflict and the trafficking, illicit trade, and illegal exploitation of natural resources. While, pursuant to the Charter of the United Nations, the issue normally fell within the purview of the Security Council under international law, States enjoyed an absolute right to dispose of their assets and natural resources in accordance with their national interests. Accordingly, in situations not involving armed conflict, issues pertaining to natural resources properly were within the purview of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. One example of the latter type of situation was the arrangement between Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay for the management, monitoring and sustainable development of the Guaraní Aquifer.

82. **Mr. Belinga-Eboutou** (Cameroon) welcomed the mobilization of the international community through a number of recent development-related events that addressed the daily struggle against poverty, especially in Africa, the least developed countries and the small island developing States. The time had come to move from words to action. He called for serious thinking on ways of remedying the inadequacies of global economic governance, and for intensified South-South cooperation in order to enhance coherence between commitments and actions.

83. It was generally agreed that few sub-Saharan African countries would achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, by which time, unless ways were found swiftly to translate commitments into concrete action, millions would still be bending under the yoke of poverty, their eyes turned to the United Nations, their last hope for preserving their humanity. The forthcoming triennial comprehensive policy review would afford the Committee an opportunity to address matters relating to improved United Nations capacity to meet developing countries' needs and to the mobilization of stable, predictable multi-year financing for coherent and coordinated activities.

84. His delegation welcomed the convening of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development, which should serve to accelerate implementation of the Monterrey Consensus. It also set great store by the resumption of the Doha Round of trade negotiations, which was of capital importance for development issues. Agreement on the terms governing agricultural tariffs and subsidies and customs duties would safeguard the interests of the countries of the South, enabling globalization to retain its true significance and generating a genuine global partnership for development. Nor should one forget the need for greater coherence between the multilateral trading system and the international financial system. Cameroon also hoped for credible reform of the international financial architecture, recognition by the Bretton Woods institutions of the developing countries' specific national characteristics, and the mobilization of stable and predictable additional financial resources through innovative financing initiatives.

85. Given the considerable drop in ODA in 2006, he wondered what had become of the Monterrey

commitments. Moreover, issues such as HIV/AIDS and climate change had also deeply affected Africa. Cameroon, like other African countries, had recently experienced severe flooding, to which the authorities had responded promptly; however it was essential to address the deep-rooted causes of such phenomena. Lastly, he reiterated his country's support for the creation of a carbon market in the Congo Basin within the terms of the Kyoto Protocol.

86. **Mr. Butagira** (Uganda) said that, owing to the many factors associated with poverty, the Committee had a crucial role to play in advancing the United Nations agenda and paving the way for achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals. The Committee should build on the current momentum in order to reach conclusive decisions on the relatively new issues of globalization and climate change, and reinvigorate discussion on older issues of critical importance to the global community. Above all, it must raise its profile as a trusted forum for consensus on important development issues. Given the Committee's failure to reach an agreement on protection of the global climate, trade, and development at its previous session, it should seek to achieve consensus by building on the progress achieved, such as the resumption of the Doha Round and the recent successful High-level Event on Climate Change.

87. At the end of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty, poverty had increased in some least developed countries, especially in sub-Saharan Africa. But the Decade had anchored poverty firmly at the core of the development agenda and conveyed the clear message that developed countries must invest more resources to support developing countries' poverty-reduction efforts. With better understanding of the deep-rooted obstacles countries faced, the second Decade should be more successful.

88. Uganda was improving its performance in terms of pro-poor economic growth. Economic growth had more than doubled to an annual rate of 6 per cent since 1990, but had slowed slightly in the previous five years. Like most developing countries, it faced formidable challenges in sustaining growth, owing to inadequate development assistance, lack of investment in productive capacity, limited market access, and the debt burden, all of which were exacerbated by the adverse impact of climate change. Poverty reduction and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals would be virtually impossible unless those problems were addressed.

89. Under the triennial comprehensive policy review, the Committee would reflect on United Nations monitoring and follow-up of internationally agreed development goals to determine achievements and areas for improvement. In that connection, his delegation welcomed the Economic and Social Council's first Annual Ministerial Review and Development Cooperation Forum, held in July 2007, and looked forward to the discussion on the impact of international commitments, policies and processes on implementation of national development strategies.

90. Some international rules had retarded progress in the developing countries, and the international community had not done enough to address the problems. The international financial system had been detrimental to developing countries' efforts to rid themselves of debt, and the global trading system had unfairly blocked their access to necessary technology through an overly strict intellectual property rights regime, all of which maintained the gap between the rich, developed countries and the poor, developing countries. A dynamic and enabling international economic environment was urgently needed to increase the momentum of global progress towards sustainable development.

91. The Committee must devote special attention to countries in special situations, in view of the emerging global challenges that constantly frustrated their efforts at sustainable development. They faced a serious shortfall in development resources, exclusion from the global economy, and climate-related natural disasters. The time had come for good intentions to be translated into constructive dialogue and genuine partnership based on common but differentiated responsibilities, backed by the international community's strong political will.

92. **Mr. Tommy** (United Nations Industrial Development Organization) said that UNIDO had continued to focus on areas in which it had a clearly demonstrated comparative advantage and could best contribute to the international community's efforts to promote sustainable development. Accordingly, it emphasized three priorities: reducing poverty through productive activities; trade capacity-building; and energy and environment.

93. With regard to poverty reduction, UNIDO promoted the development of a dynamic private sector and strengthened the capacity of Governments to foster an environment conducive to wealth creation. It therefore focused on incorporating the poor into the private sector as entrepreneurs and employees.

94. In the area of trade capacity-building, the UNIDO programme promoted the increased competitiveness of the industrial enterprises of developing countries, the conformity of their manufactured goods to international standards (in cooperation with other United Nations organizations), and the connectivity of exporters to global markets. According to the World Trade Organization and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, UNIDO was the major provider of trade-related technical assistance among the United Nations agencies.

95. Improving energy efficiency, in particular, industrial energy efficiency, should be a major element of national energy policy. The industrial sector, to which nearly one-third of global energy demand and CO_2 emissions could be attributed, was of key importance in the effort to tackle climate change without adversely affecting economic growth, particularly in developing countries. UNIDO enabled countries to raise the energy efficiency of their industries by helping them to gain access to better technologies and, through capacity-building, manage such technology efficiently.

96. As many poor people in developing countries had no access to modern energy, particularly in rural areas, UNIDO worked to increase such access by providing energy from off-grid, renewable sources for industrial applications and productive activities. The use of biofuels had tremendous potential for promoting economic growth and employment and, if sustainably managed, for tackling climate change.

97. The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer was one of the clearest examples that the international community, by working closely together, could successfully tackle major environmental challenges. UNIDO firmly believed that similar progress could be made in dealing with climate change through well-designed and effectively implemented international agreements under the auspices of the United Nations.

98. With respect to the development of Africa, he pointed out that the Conference of African Ministers of Industry, held in Midrand, South Africa, from 24 to 27 September, had commended the decision of the African Union to dedicate the Eighth Summit of Heads of State and Government of the African Union to the central theme of sustainable development. The Conference had also recommended a draft plan of action for the accelerated industrial development of Africa for consideration at the Summit. In addition, the African Union, the African Group and UNIDO would host a round-table discussion on technology and innovation for industry on 20 November 2007 in observance of Africa Industrialization Day (proclaimed by General Assembly resolution 44/237).

99. In order better to fulfil the potential of South-South cooperation for complementing North-South cooperation, UNIDO had established a special unit to develop and coordinate South-South industrial cooperation activities. Centres for South-South cooperation had been established in 2007 in India and China. Others, in Brazil, Egypt and South Africa, were being considered and were expected to be of particular benefit to the least developed countries.

100. With regard to efforts to promote system-wide coherence and United Nations reform, UNIDO had undertaken considerable internal reforms in recent years and remained fully committed to working with Member States and sister organizations in the United Nations system to increase the impact of its programmes at the country level. UNIDO believed that in order for United Nations reform to achieve its aims, it must be carried out in a manner that enabled Member States to take full advantage of the specialized expertise of all relevant parts of the United Nations system, while ensuring that those parts worked together within a common, country-owned framework.

The meeting rose at 5.30 p.m.